Amendment to the Specification

Please substitute the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 6:

A random-number generator [110] 112 has input and output terminals 114 and 116, respectively, and generates a respective random number for each pixel location in the image whose pixel values the circuit 102 is processing. In one embodiment, the output terminal 116 is connected to the input terminal 114 to form a feedback loop. An optional truncator circuit 120 truncates the random number to a desired size. The truncator 120 (or the random-number generator 112 if the truncator 120 is omitted) provides the random numbers to a second input 122 of the combiner 106. Thus, for each pixel location, the generator [12] 112 provides a respective random number to the combiner 106, which combines the random number with a respective dark pixel value to generate a modified dark pixel value. If a pixel location has a bright pixel value instead of a dark pixel value, then the generator 112 may still generate a random number for the pixel location even though the combiner 106 does not use the random number to modify a pixel value.

A' cancel